Sparks from Fr. Mark

March 15-16, 2008

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Coming from the good family names of McCormick, Clarke, McGrath and Muldoon, I always look forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day in all of its fullness—especially treating myself to several helpings of my Mom's Irish stew and soda bread… mmm… mmm… good!

However, this year because St. Patrick's Day falls on Monday of Holy Week, the feast will not be celebrated liturgically in the universal church. Not even St. Patrick can trump Holy Week, which leads us into the greatest week of the Church year, the celebration of Triduum. Sorry, St. Patrick!

"Triduum" comes from a Latin word simply meaning "three days." The celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Easter Vigil are not three separate liturgies, but one liturgy spread over three days. Or as Joni Osnes said at Gatherings of Grace this past Wednesday, Triduum is one liturgy with several naps in between.

They say that the Easter Vigil is to the year what Sunday is to the week. In other words, when Catholics miss Easter Vigil they are missing their single most brilliant opportunity to proclaim their faith in Christ and what the Church holds most dear!

Below are some action verbs that describe what takes place during the Easter Vigil Liturgy. Can you name the action each of these verbs symbolizes? How does each action help give flesh to the Paschal Mystery in our lives? Who knows, there might even be a prize for the one name them all. On second thought that might be impossible…

Hush… Shiver… Ignite… Flicker… Blaze… Light up… Warm up… Smell… Follow… Acclaim… Read and read and read… Listen and listen and listen… Sing and sing and sing… Ask… Stand… Invoke… Splash… Flow… Breathe… Mingle… Bring forward… Renounce and denounce… Swear and promise… Drown… Emerge… Acclaim… Clothe… Surround… Embrace… Anoint… Petition… Prepare… Invite… Gather… Bless… Break… Pour… Share… Invite…Go…

The Triduum

Holy Thursday, March 20

8:00 am: Morning Prayer presided by Kathy Van Asma with a reflection by Colette Stoffel

7:00 pm: Holy Thursday Liturgy

Good Friday, March 21

8:00 am: Morning Prayer presided by Ken Van Asma with a reflection by Larry Williamson

7:00 pm: Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, March 22

8:00 am: Morning Prayer presided by Greg Sass with a reflection by Cathy Sass

Followed by the Blessing of Food for the First Meal of Easter

8:00 pm: Easter Vigil

The Week Ahead
March 17-23, 2008

Monday of Holy Week, March 17

Liturgical Color: Violet
Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-7; Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14; John 12:1-11
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy
Intention: For the gift to be more attentive to Jesus during this Holy Week.

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 18

Liturgical Color: Violet
Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71:1-6, 15, 17; John 13:21-33, 36-38
No Daily Liturgy

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 19

Liturgical Color: Violet
Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25
5:30 pm: Daily Liturgy
Intention: Healing for victims of abuse
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm: High School Youth Event

Holy Thursday, March 20

Liturgical Color: White
Readings: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15
8:00 am: Morning Prayer
7:00 pm: Holy Thursday Liturgy
Intention: For the courage to wash one another's feet.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, March 21

Day of Fasting and Abstinence
Liturgical Color: Red
Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
8:00 am: Morning Prayer
7:00 pm: Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, March 22

Liturgical Color: Violet
8:00 am: Morning Prayer and Blessing of the First Meal of Easter
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm: Reconciliation

The Great Vigil of Easter Saturday Evening, March 22

Liturgical Color: White
Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-4, 24, 35; Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16:5, 8-11; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-6; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Psalm 19:8-11; Ezekiel 36:16-28; Psalm 42:3-5; 43:3-4; Romans 6:3-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Matthew 28:1-10
8:00 pm: Easter Vigil Liturgy
Intention: For the newly initiated in our parish.

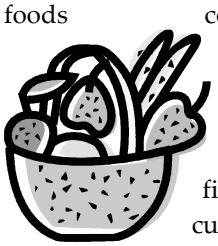
The Resurrection of the Lord Sunday, March 23

Liturgical Color: White
Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 118-1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9
8:00 am: Easter Sunday Liturgy with Baptism of Gabriella Werdel
Intention: For our parish community
10:30 am: Easter Sunday Liturgy
Intention: For the ability to see with resurrected eyes.
11:30 am: Easter Egg Hunt

Parish Community News
March 15-16, 2008

Blessing of the First Meal of Easter

"The custom of blessing food for the first meal of Easter arose from the discipline of fasting throughout Lent and during the Easter Triduum. Easter was the first day when meat, eggs, and other foods could again be eaten. Although not an obligation, the special fast during the Triduum may still be observed, as well as the tradition of blessing food for the first meal of Easter. According to custom, food may be blessed before or after the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday or on Easter Morning for consumption at the First Meal of Easter, when fasting is ended and the church is filled with joy." (Source: Book of Blessings)



At OLBH we will offer this Blessing of the Food for the First Meal of Easter as a part of our Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday, March 22, at 8:00 am. We encourage you to bring the food you will use to prepare your first meal of Easter, that it may be blessed, and that your household may be filled with Easter joy.

JustFaith

We've been asking the question, "Could you live on $1 a day?" in preparation for the ART Workshop on March 29. The ART Workshop is a part of the JustFaith program, which is an extensive, conversion-based process that provides a context in which participants can grow in their commitment to care for the vulnerable and to become advocates for justice. This program serves to strengthen the commitment of parishes to be agents of social transformation, mercy and compassion. We hope you will join us on March 29 for the ART Workshop. Let's work together to make the world a better place. Register to attend in the Gathering Area.

Easter Flowers

Donations of Easter Lilies or other spring flowers for Easter will be greatly appreciated. You may bring them any time after the Palm Sunday liturgies (this weekend) and before noon on Holy Saturday. Please leave them in the library. We will also accept donations for the purchase of flowers. Thank you for making our church beautiful!

Women's Encounter

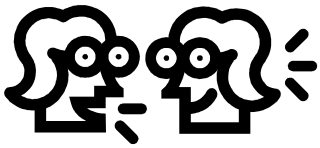
Join us for the next Women's Encounter, Tuesday, March 25, 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Eileen Desmond will be our presenter. If you need child care, call Kathy Van Asma. Hope to see you there!

KC Pancake Breakfast

The OLBH Knights of Columbus will host a pancake breakfast and bake sale on Sunday, March 30, from 8:00 am to noon. Sit down to a stack of pancakes, served with apple pie filling, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice. Free-will donations accepted. Delicious, fresh baked goods will also be offered for sale. Come one and all and don't go away hungry!

People Who Need Our Prayers

Health Concerns: Grant Coffin, Joe Creek, Frank Keller, Bob Lauinger, Sharon Long, Cliff Meyer, Carol Michaelson, Jonette Murphy, Marty Quinn, Darcy Randall, Dayle Roseland, Marjorie Schaub, Tyler Schubauer, Chris VenJohn, Mary Kay Young
Repose: Monica Urbanic



Youthtalk

March 15-16, 2008

High School Youth Event
Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

We welcome all high school youth to come and share their faith and build community. Parents are welcome too! We will be praying *The Way of the Cross.* If you would like to bring treats, we will be glad to accept them! If you have any questions please call Teresa at 787-5168.

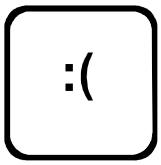
2008 High School Youth Rally
ADORE

"All the nations you have made will come and ADORE you, oh Lord." (Psalm 86:9)

The 2008 High School Catholic Youth Rally, for grades 9-12, will be held in Fort Pierre, Sunday, March 30, from 10 am to 6 pm. Come and enjoy dynamic keynote speaker Chris Stefanick from the Archdiocese of Denver, and the praise band Godstruck. The fee is now $35. For more information, contact Teresa Thompson at 787-5168. Registration forms are located in the gathering area.

Steubenville of the Rockies
June 19-22, Denver
Sold Out!

To be placed on the waiting list, please submit all paperwork and a non-refundable deposit of $75 to the diocesan Youth Office, with checks payable to the Diocese of Rapid City. For more information, give Teresa Thompson a call.



Teens Encounter Christ
April 4-6 in McIntosh

TEC is an intergenerational Catholic retreat movement for youth and young adults 16 -22, based upon the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. Youth will encounter Christ and one another through prayer, liturgy, and dialogue. The weekends are conducted by teams of lay adults, teenagers, priests and religious. To join the team or become a participant, contact Gloria Maher at 701-522-3244.

National Catholic Youth Choir

The National Catholic Youth Choir, directed by Axel Theimer, will gather June 16 to July 2 at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. This choir is for Catholic teenagers entering grades 10 to 12 next fall. If you are interested in singing in this choir, go to www.CatholicYouthChoir.org.

Music Ministry Alive!

This 10th annual event is for musically gifted Catholics who are entering grades 10 to 12 or their first two years of college. This dynamic, spiritual, motivational, and educational event will be held July 22-27 on the beautiful campus of the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota. If you are interested in attending, please contact Teresa Thompson by March 31.

Around the Diocese
March 15-16, 2008

Palm Sunday Brunch

Don't forget the CSS Palm Sunday Brunch today at the Ramkota Hotel, noon to 2:30. Kathleen McChesney will be the speaker. A free will offering will be taken at the brunch.

Charley's Aunt

St. Thomas More High School is pleased to announce the upcoming production of *Charley's Aunt.* Set at the turn of the twentieth century, *Charley's Aunt* is the comic tale of Charley and Jack, Oxford undergraduates trying to romance two young ladies. As is the custom of the day, a chaperone is required to attend their date, and Charley's elderly aunt, soon to be visiting, fits the bill. When she doesn't arrive in time, the boys have no choice but to disguise a friend as the old widow. After Charley's real aunt shows up, the boys find themselves in a hilarious predicament. Directed by Marnie Gould, the show will be staged at St. Elizabeth Seton School on April 4 and 5 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available in advance at St. Thomas More High School and will also be sold at the door. Ticket prices are $3 for students and $5 for adults.

Encountering Life Alone

This nine-week separated and divorced support group begins at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 27 at St. Therese's in Rapid City. The group is open to all Christian men and women who are hurting due to separation or divorce. Pre-registration is requested; the fee is $25.00. For more information, call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Diocesan Men's Retreat

It's not too late to register for the Diocesan Men's Retreat, which will be held at St. Martin's Monastery on March 28-30. Fr. Dick McCaslin will present *Ministers of God's Saving Presence*. Registration forms are in the gathering area.

Engaged Encounter

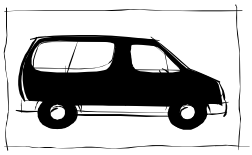
A retreat designed to help engaged or newly married couples honestly and openly examine their future life together will be held April 4-6 at St. Martin's Monastery. For more information, or to register, please go to www.westrivercee.com.

Faithful Citizenship

Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (USCCB)

Annual Remembrance of Pope John Paul II

Hear about God's mercy and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at Our Lady's Chapel on Wednesday, April 2, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on the third anniversary of Pope John Paul's death.
For more information,
call Paul or Teresa Witte at 343-8121.



For the Ride Home

Discuss the Scripture you Heard Today

Scripture: Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:7-8)

Action: Take some time during the Triduum to consider your Lenten journey. How did it start? How is it ending? In what ways have you changed? How have you emptied and humbled yourself? Let yourself be absorbed in the liturgies of Thursday and Friday, and spend some quiet time on Holy Saturday. Stay in the emptiness of Lent during these final hours. Then look forward to the fullness of the Resurrection--where a different kind of growth occurs.

Reflection: God created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection. He has not created me for naught. I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth. I shall trust in God.[1]

[1]John Henry, Cardinal Newman, *The Little Black Book*, compiled by Bishop Ken Untener, Diocese of Saginaw, MI, 2005.

Family Faith-Sharing Questions

Look Ahead to Next Sunday's Scripture

Break Open the Word: Read aloud John 20:1-9

Listen to the Word: As you hear this reading from the Gospel of John, what feeling does it arouse within you? What word or phrase catches your ear?

Question for Children: What would it be like to be Mary of Magdala when she finds the empty tomb?

Question for Youth: Jesus' closest friends had trouble believing that the tomb was empty. Resurrection is surprising. Does Jesus ever surprise you?

Question for Adults: When have you experienced the presence of the Risen Christ?

DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

OFFICE OF BISHOP

March 6, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christians in the Holy Land need your help now as never before.

For these sons and daughters of the land sanctified by the Lord's life, death, and resurrection, life has become intolerable. An extreme scarcity of housing (especially for couples), plummeting salaries, declining purchasing power and the shadow of violence and hatred have driven many followers of Christ to emigrate in search of a better life.

Yet as the Custos of the Holy Land, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, recently said, "As Christians, we have a historical task: not to abandon the land of the Lord, to be there, to stay there, to be Christians there."

The primary means of support for this work is the annual Good Friday Collection, which is administered by the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches. On Good Friday, March 21, 2008 the Diocese of Rapid City will be taking up this special collection (there are no envelopes for this collection). Please help support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by giving to this Good Friday Collection. May God bless you and your families for your generosity!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Blase J. Cupich
Bishop of Rapid City

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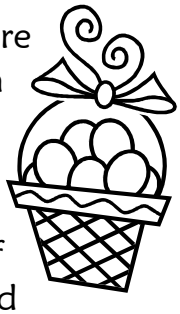
Some New Easter Traditions!

El Cascarones



Join in the Mexican-American tradition of making Cascarones, which are a delightful variation on the familiar Easter egg—an eggshell filled with confetti! During Lent, carefully poke holes in the bottoms of some eggs, and empty the contents out through the hole. Then clean and dry the eggs, setting them aside so they will be well dried by Holy Saturday. During the last week of Lent prepare a supply of confetti by cutting tiny strips and squares of colored paper. On Holy Saturday, all join in coloring the hollow eggs. Then stuff them with confetti and seal up the holes with small circles of colored tissue-paper. Traditionally the parents will hide the Cascarones in various places indoors and outdoors. As children find the hidden eggs they will hide them under their shirts or in their pockets. Then they will sneak up on a parent and break the confetti-filled eggs over the parent's head! The practice is exuberant, joyful, surprising, and full of life—just what Easter is all about. Ready-made Cascarones may be purchased, but making them at home can be far more fun and meaningful.

Easter Cookies that Tell a Story

Spend Holy Saturday making these special Easter cookies. Each of the ingredients and preparation actions for these cookies are related to a Gospel event during Holy Week and Easter. It will be meaningful and fun to serve them to your family and guests on Easter Sunday.
They will also make wonderful gifts.
Here's where to go for the recipe:
www.geocities.com/heartland/6580/vbs.html?200619
Click on "Easter Cookies."

Blessing of the Easter Cup and Plate

Select a special cup and plate you will use for Easter Dinner, then on Holy Thursday, gather the family together for a blessing ceremony. Give the cup and plate a special place of prominence for Easter dinner, then, afterwards, place the cup and plate in a place where they can be honored all year.

Blessing of the Easter Plate

Leader: (holding up the plate with a piece of bread on it) "On this Holy Thursday, we bless this plate for use in our home. May we share the bread from this plate with a renewed sense of family. Let our sharing of the one bread from this plate remind us that we have hope in being together for our tomorrows. When we eat from this plate, let us commit ourselves to times of family joy, happiness and laughter." (The plate is passed in silence to each family member, and each eats a portion from the one plate.)

All: "Blessed be God and this family forever."

Blessing of the Easter Cup

Leader: (holding the cup with wine or juice in it) "On this Holy Thursday we bless this cup for use in our home. May we share of this cup with a renewed sense of family. Let our drinking from this one cup remind us that we are a family with a shared history and a future hope. When we drink of this one cup, let us commit ourselves to support one another in our times of hurt, pain and sorrow. (The cup is passed to each member in silence, and each drinks a portion from the one cup.)

All: "Blessed be God and this family forever."

OLBH Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, March 23rd after the 10:30 am Mass on the Church Grounds

Children 13 years old and younger are invited to participate in the egg hunt. There will be three age groups along with special prizes for the children who find the eight "golden eggs" for each group.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and join the fun, enjoy some refreshments and watch the kids find their treats!

Don't forget your Easter Baskets!

In the event of inclement weather, the hunt will be held inside.

Sponsored by the OLBH Knights of Columbus #7079